

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-12, 14, and 30 are pending. Claim 1 is an independent claim with all remaining claims except claim 30 depending therefrom. Claim 30 is an independent claim. Claim 1 has not been amended and reconsideration of Claims 1, 2, 3, 6-8, 10-12, and 14 is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth below.

An amendment to claim 30 is proposed herein to distinctly set forth the relationship between the first and second portions of the glove, particularly to define that both the first and second portions directly contact the user's hand and, thus, cannot encompass a "glove within a glove" structure. It is readily apparent from the file history that such limitations have already been searched for and considered by the Examiner, particularly with respect to dependent claim 3, which is similar in scope to amended claim 30. The proposed amendment to claim 30 will not require any additional searching or place an undue burden on the Examiner, and it is respectfully requested that the amendment to claim 30 be entered.

Claim 1 stands rejected under § 103(a) in view of the combination of Andrews '197 and Martin '174. In particular, the Office Action states:

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention as made to modify the device of Andrews by utilizing a first and second orientation and tactile material as taught by Martin in order to provide a glove that is both capable of good grip and tactility in the finger.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination proposed in the § 103 rejection would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art absent hindsight analysis of the present application. The proposed modification essentially defeats the very purpose of the glove according to Andrews '197 and renders it ineffective for its intended purpose. The glove according to Andrews '197 is a hunting glove and the

primary purpose of the glove is to provide a "firm friction grip" material in the thumb and trigger finger to improve the user's grip, particularly in adverse weather. To accomplish this purpose, the glove embodies a synthetic rubber-like composition having a pattern of raised dots. The invention is alleged to improve the user's grip particularly in snow and wet weather when "a continuous film of snow or water would tend to be interposed between the gun stock and grasping surfaces of the glove." At column 1, lines 46 through 51, Andrews '197 describes use of the friction enhancing material as follows:

Such a situation is avoided in the present glove where the solid spherical dots or papillae penetrate the film of snow or moisture and provide an excellent friction hold on the solid surfaces of the stock and/or trigger regardless of the condition of the surfaces of the gun engaged by this papillated area.

The dotted material on the trigger and thumb portion of the glove is made by the fabric illustrated in Figs. 9 and 9A of Andrews '197. This material is described at column 3, lines 15 through 31, as a multi-layered material (three layers) that includes an outer layer with dots 14 deposited thereon. These dots are composed of a plastic, artificial, rubber-like material deposited as generally spherical drops or granules upon the surface of a base cotton knitted jersey material 13. A middle layer of polyurethane film is disposed between the dotted material 13 and an inner layer 16 made of a fibrous nylon flock.

It should be readily appreciated that the multi-layered, rubber-like material comprising the dotted faced gripping portion is not a high tactile material that provides the user with a more sensitive feel through the material as compared to the other portions of the glove. If anything, the dotted material inhibits a more sensitive tactile feel. However, such material is necessary to the invention of Andrews '197 in that, as

cited above, the solid dots penetrate a film of snow or moisture on a gun stock or other object to satisfy the primary objective of the glove, namely to provide a "firm friction grip" upon a gun stock or other object, particularly in adverse weather.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that those of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify the glove of Andrews '197 to replace the friction enhancing material with a high tactile material, such as the relatively slick film materials described in Martin '174 for the inner glove, including silicone rubber, polyethylene, Teflon, polyurethane, and so forth. The characteristics of these materials are essentially opposite to the desired friction enhancing materials required by the glove of Andrews '197. To replace the multi-layered dotted material in the portions of the glove of Andrews '197 with a high tactile polymer material would essentially render the glove of Andrews '197 useless for its intended purpose, particularly in adverse weather wherein a film of moisture might be present on the gun stock or other object to be gripped by the user. As discussed, above, Andrews requires the dotted material to penetrate through such a film of moisture.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claim 1 based on the proposed combination of Andrews '197 and Martin '174. The proposed combination is not well founded when considering the express purpose of the invention of the primary reference, which would be completely negated by the proposed combination.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the proposed combination. Claims 2, 3, 6-8, 10-12, and 14 only further patentably define

the unique combination of claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Independent claim 30 is amended herein to call for the second portion of the glove to be made of a tactile polymer material that is attached to the first portion to define a tip of an index finger portion of the glove. In a first orientation, the second portion is covered by a part of the first portion. The second portion is disposed in direct contact with at least the tip of the user's index finger and the first portion is disposed in direct contact with the remaining portion of the user's hand. In a second orientation of the glove, the part of the first portion that covers the second portion is removed to expose the second portion while the remaining part of the first portion defines the rest of the glove that it is contact with the user's hand. The second portion has a higher tactility than the first portion such that the user may more easily feel through the second portion than through the first portion. As amended, claim 30 is similar in scope to claim 3 in that there can be no question that the claim does not read on a "glove within a glove" structure as described in Martin '174. It appears from the Final Office Action that the Examiner was interpreting claim 30 as so broad as to not require the first portion to actually contact the user's hand. It is proposed to amend claim 30 to alleviate any such confusion. It is respectfully submitted that no reasonable combination of any of the features of Martin '174 with the glove of Andrews '197 renders claim 30 obvious. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, one skilled in the art would not replace the multi-layered dotted friction enhancing material in Andrews '197 with a high tactile material. Also, even if one skilled in the art were motivated to put a covering of some sort over the index finger of the glove of Andrews '197 in view of the teachings of Martin

'174, such a covering would not be a part of the first fabric portion of the glove. As described at column 2, line 65 through column 3, line 7, the body portion of the glove is a single piece of fabric material and includes a stub first finger portion 7. Referring to Fig. 10, the finger stall 18 for the index finger is formed by a piece 23 of the friction enhancing material that is attached to the stub portion 7. With this type of construction, any covering over the index finger would likely be a separate piece of material altogether, and not an extension of the first portion that is defined by a slit located at the back side of the index finger.

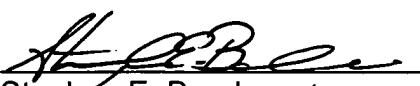
Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 30 also patentably defines over the proposed combination of Andrews '197 and Martin '174.

Applicant respectfully submits that, upon reconsideration of claim 1 and its respective dependent claims, and entry of the Amendment to claim 30, that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at her convenience should she have any questions regarding this matter or require any additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

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